

Dinghy Cruising Association



Solent Soundings



Issue No. 6 - June 2003

Don't forget to look at <https://uk.groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/dinghysolent/info> for more photos and general discussion.

Editorial

As I write this we've already had two successful rallies and it's been lovely to meet so many new faces. A warm welcome to Paul and Colin with their Cornish Coble; Doug and Sue Forster - Cruz; Michelle, John and Peter Holman - Wanderer; and Simon Horner - home built Whilley Boat. Not all new members, but all new to South Coast rallies.

Solent Soundings is now on the DCA website, so if you miss your copy you will be able to access it there. However, there could be delays in getting it published on the site, particularly in the Summer holidays, so I suggest you continue to look out for my e-mailed versions.

What do you think of Aidan de la Mare's AGM proposal to hold a big celebration rally for our 50th anniversary in 2005? His suggestion for somewhere in the Solent area, which is where it all began, rather puts the onus on us, with our local knowledge, to propose an appropriate venue . . . not easy! For the time being I suggest we all keep our eyes and ears alert for any likely venue, with sufficient camping, launching and toilet facilities to cope with a large number of members . . .

Liz Baker



DCA Film

I heard from Vanessa Bird last week that this will be broadcast as part of the *Getting Afloat*" series on Discovery Home & Leisure on the following dates (2003):

Monday	16 June	6.30 pm
Friday	27 June	6.30 am
Friday	27 June	12.30 pm

The DCA doesn't occupy the whole programme, but only the second half (about 15 minutes), so please be patient! The series has already started and features Nick Gates stepping aboard a wide variety of traditional craft, as well as following his restoration of a 1950s *Sharpie*. Vanessa tells me she and Nick plan to sail the finished boat to the Yarmouth Old Gaffers Festival at the end of May and will be sleeping on board. She says she hopes it will be the start of a lot more dinghy cruising.

If, like me, you don't have multi-channel TV, you will shortly be able to borrow the video from the DCA Library.



West Wight Potter Annual Lunch

The WWPA have always encouraged non-Potter owning DCA members to attend their functions, and I know well that quite a few regularly do so. For various reasons I have not, until now, managed to get to one myself, but this year I was determined to put that right and so by 10.30 on a sunny Sunday morning, 24 March, I was bombing along the Brighton by-pass in the vague direction of Maidenhead Rowing Club,



where this year's annual lunch was to be held, only to find the A23 exit blocked by a long line of stationary traffic. After a detour via the A24 and a long hold-up in Maidenhead itself, I arrived just in time for lunch, to find my favourite meal on the menu – roast beef and yorkshire pudding. I received a warm welcome from everyone and it was good to see a fair smattering of familiar DCA faces amongst the fifty or so Potter owning and non-Potter owning families present.

Outside in the sunshine a selection of Potters was lined-up, fully rigged, as if about to go off sailing – but not today, and it was interesting to observe at close quarters the differences between the various types. My own favourite was the pretty curvy lines of the original A type.



Stuart has suffered a lot poor health and back trouble lately, but is hoping to join us at a rally or two this Summer in his bigger boat.



Stuart Jones's refurbished Tideway



Rally News

Snowhill Creek - 12/13 April – *Liz Baker*

I wasn't really expecting much of a rally so early in the season, but in fact three boats came, and four people, and a fourth DCA boat was seen sailing in the harbour but decided to return home.

Tired following a busy week, I was late getting to Cobnor and it was 3.30 pm on Saturday before *Tessa* was afloat. I left her bobbing quietly beside the deserted hard while I parked my trailer and, returning five minutes later was surprised to find *Bluey* sitting beside her – no sign of Len – but he soon returned and told me he'd seen Chris Jenkins sailing *Gyspey* towards Emsworth. He then pointed-out a red sailed gaffer disappearing up Bosham Creek who were newcomers Paul and Colin in a *Cornish Crabber*. I was anxious get sailing so left Len to continue towards Bosham while I set-off downstream. A swift reaching sail soon brought me to East Head where I briefly entered the creek, but no other DCA boats were there, so I sailed out again and continued towards the harbour entrance for a look at the sea – tried to sail out through the swatchway, but too shallow so returned the way I'd come. I had miscalculated the tide which was much lower than I'd been expecting. After a while I spotted Len and the Coble approaching Snowhill Creek, so returned to join them.

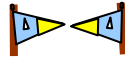
On Bosham Quay, Colin and Paul had found a weather forecast for Sunday for F7-8. This was rather startling as the last forecast I'd heard was for SE 3-4 on Saturday, which was about what we were getting, increasing to F5 on Sunday.

The wind was onshore at the rendez-vous and rather chilly, and Len wanted to continue to the Roman Landing for more shelter. I was less eager because I like this venue and can seldom enjoy it with so few people about. I was also slightly concerned that if Chris or anyone else arrived later they wouldn't know we were here. Where was Chris anyway? Perhaps he too had heard the forecast? I erected my fishing umbrella cuddy and told the others I'd join them later. After four scalding cups of coffee, two hunks of cake and a brief walk ashore, I raised my sail and drifted upstream in the fading light. Colin and Paul were cooking-up on the beach beside their boat. I just managed to erect my tent before the light went; then all four of us walked into West Wittering to the pub. The afternoon had been overcast, but we returned to our boats beneath a clear, star spangled sky. Len grumbled because the clouds that had kept away the warmth of the sun during the day, having now cleared, augured a chilly night.



I never did hear a forecast, but the others confirmed that it was indeed destined to blow. Sunday was a beautiful day, but the rising wind had us scurrying back to our bases. Out of the wind, though, the sun was warm and I spent a lazy couple of hours eating lunch sheltered behind my boat in the dinghy park.

Chris e-mailed me later and confirmed that, partly due to the forecast, and partly for family reasons, he'd decided to return home.



Cobnor, Chichester Harbour – 2-4 May – *Liz Baker*

Howling wind and torrential rain on Friday evening, and a forecast of SW F8, increasing to severe Gale F9, was not an auspicious start to the week-end, but the weather had moderated by morning. The wind stayed around F5 for most of the week-end, but with big reefs conditions were sailable, the sun shone, the water sparkled and the sailing was superb. Ten boats (all different) and 14 members came along - some sailed round from other launching sites; others arrived by road and launched at Cobnor. Some camped afloat, others ashore. Some went home on Sunday, but most of us stayed over until the Monday bank holiday and during the week-end we cruised together to East Head, Mengham Rythe and Dell Quay. Nearly everyone came up to the camping field to share in the splendid barbeque laid on by John and Linden on Saturday night, and as there was enough food left over we had another barbeque on Sunday.

In retrospect I realise how lucky we were to have a dry week-end in the midst of a spell of very wet and windy weather.

Those who came were:	John and Linden Kuyser	Westray 16	<i>Rachel</i>
	Keith Holdsworth	Own design	<i>Flying Pig</i>
	Chris Jenkins	Potter AX	<i>Gispey</i>
	Len Wingfield	Gull	
	Doug and Sue Forster	Cruz	
	John, Michelle & Peter Holman	Wanderer	<i>Beaky</i>
	Simon Horner	Whilley Boat	
	Steven Bradwell	Enterprise	
	Dave Sumer	Mirror	<i>Curlew</i>
	Liz Baker	Cormorant	<i>Tessa</i>



Beaulieu – 24-26 May – *Chris Jenkins* - Liz didn't go. No news from Chris yet.



... more about those waders ...

Regular participants in South Coast rallies will be familiar with my over-long boom crutch. There's a reason for this. Do you remember in the last issue I described rowing through the rain at midnight to retrieve my forgotten waders? Well, that wasn't quite the end of the tale. The waders were full of rain water so I decided to up-end them on the boom crutch to drain. Sometime later I was roused from my slumber by a bright light shining on my tent, and the faint throb of an engine. I waited for the vessel to pass, but instead it slowly circled my boat.

"Bother !". I climbed out of my warm sleeping bag and peered into the rain.

"Am I on your mooring?"



“No ”, came the reply, and the yacht slowly straightened-up and continued on its way. Just then I caught sight of my upturned waders silhouetted against their light, and they looked exactly like a man hanging upside-down. No wonder the yacht’s crew were puzzled!



Liz



The Holman family took their Wanderer to Poole and Michelle has sent me news of their adventures:

" Hi Liz,

Just thought I'd drop you a line about a very enjoyable time we have just spent camping at Redcliffe Farm, on the River Frome and having two day-sails in the Wanderer (*Beaky*, short for "Buckbeak", but don't mention this in front of John!!) in Poole harbour.

Day 1 - Sunday - John, Pete and Michelle - 9am - motored down the River Frome to Giggers Island and then sailed (running then reaching) along the marked channel to Tasman (a named buoy on the chart), then to Hutch (another named buoy!) then to Pottery Pier on Brownsea. Decided not to attempt landing, as did not know whether there were rocks or obstructions; also lee shore and wind freshening. Sailed round the north and east sides of Brownsea as unsure of managing with depth and width of channel on south side. Anchored at South Steps, had a picnic and visited sweet shop, etc. Waited till tide had turned and tacked up narrow channel between Furzey and Brownsea and then back up to Redcliffe retracing route of morning. Only one problem and that was accidentally sailing towards Rockley and going aground when trying to tack back to correct channel!

Day 2 - Monday - John, Pete, Michelle and Alice (my daughter-20 yrs - unexpectedly joined us at campsite on Sunday evening!). Similar start 9.30am, but at Pottery Pier reached down between Furzey and Brownsea and anchored by the cafe/restaurant where the chain ferry lands on Studland. Picnic, drinks in cafe etc. Then sailed to Brownsea, South Steps, avoiding Stony Island, which was clearly visible, as it was low water. Visit to sweet shop again! Then tacked back past Furzey and along another channel to Shipstall Point, turned left and beached on Long Island to search for reported campsite (unsuccessful, no sign of this at all). Rested for a while on sand and then retraced steps towards Brownsea but branched off northwards to get back on the route home via buoys Hutch and Tasman. Kids very cold and wet as wind quite fresh and narrow channel requiring very short tacks. Attempted to anchor at Giggers Island again but got anchor warp wrapped around a channel stick! Got sails down and unravelled warp, then motored back to Redcliffe - quite late 8pm.

We had a GPS, a chart and a 1:2500 OS to help plan this. Weather was excellent and winds just right for us, but the Wanderer is not a "dry boat" in my opinion, and we have not yet sorted out suitable methods of stowing spare dry clothes, maps, charts etc etc. "

Michelle Holman



Lake Road Launching Site – Poole Harbour

Stuart Jones has kindly sent me details of a free launching site at Poole which was described in PBO 24 April 2002. He has inspected and recommends it as a useful one. I believe Steve Bradwell has also used this one.

Take A350 from Upton and Blandford Forum. Turn right when you see the *Red Lion* on left. Lake Road is a residential street which, after 100 yds or so, bends sharply left. Continue through narrow bridge and ahead is a stretch of tarmac, more houses, then an open gateway leading to a public hard. Toilets are ¼ mile to the east in a public park – either quick journey by car, or a pleasant ten minute walk along the foreshore.





Rally Programmes 2003

<u>Date</u>	<u>Sat pm HW</u> <u>Portsmouth</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Rally Host</u>
7-8 June	14.29	Wootton Creek OS 196 / 547 921 Meet near wooden jetty on rhs, just below Wootton Bridge.	Liz Baker
** 21-22 June	17-36 Pompy (Poole Entrance 15-20)	Shipstall Point, Poole Harbour OS 195 / 984 882 Camping forbidden on Arne Heath, but there is a small campsite on Long Island, 988 878	Keith Holdsworth
* 5-6 July	16-16	Hurst Castle, Keyhaven OS 196 / 316 903 Meet near the black hut on beach. Good site for a bar-b-Q, but keep it clear of the nature reserve!	David Jones
19-20 July	16-09	Cowes, Folly Inn OS 196 / 510 926 (half-way between Cowes & Newport). Meet on beach in bend of river, just up-stream from pub.	Liz Baker
* 9-10 Aug	22-19	The Kench, Langstone Harbour OS 197 694 999 Quiet creek off Sinah Lake, between shingle bank and shore, just east of small bay. Should be time for bar-b-Q or picnic on shingle bank before tide covers it.	Dave Sumner
23-24 Aug	22.30	Bembridge OS 196 / 641 886 Meet on sandy beach on lhs, just inside entrance. Possible onward cruise in company on Sun – destination to be agreed by those present.	Len Wingfield
* 13-14 Sept	13-56	Oxhey Lake, Lymington OS 197 / 744 044 Meet on small beach where sea wall bends sharply to left towards Moses Dock.	David Jones
* 27-28 Sept	13-39	Bursledon traditional end-of-season meet at The Jolly Sailor. We usually meet-up on Lands End Hard. Some prefer to continue under the bridges and up-river for a quieter night. Tide is right for a cruise to Curbridge or Botley on Sunday for those who can lower their masts.	Liz Baker
* 11-12 Oct	12-54	Lunch on Fowley Island then visit seals in Oare Rythe and overnight in Snowhill Creek.	Liz Baker

* Accessible by sheltered water

** Particularly suitable for families

Map references relate to the OS Landranger series

